

Cotton Valley School, Fort Davis, Ala.

Mrs. E. M. T. Cottin, Principal



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A RURAL school, thirteen miles from Tuskegee, established in December, 1884, under the auspices of the Woman's Home Missionary Association of the Congregational Church, in an old log church, by Miss Lilla V. Davis (now Mrs. Dr. Samuel E. Courtney), of Boston.

Miss Davis, who remained at the Cotton Valley School for more than a decade, made her home for a time with "Aunt Eliza" Boyd, who at the age of ninety-three rejoiced that she had 125 direct descendants in the community. In the home where Miss Davis spent her first winter there were nine boys in the family. They all lived in the old one-room cabin, a simple drapery separating the missionary from the family. Gertrude E. Boyd, a grandchild of "Aunt Eliza," was

the first student of Cotton Valley to receive a higher education. She graduated from Fisk University, and is now a teacher at Cotton Valley, doing excellent work. Mrs. E. M. T. Cottin, principal since 1904, finished the course at the Columbia, S. C.,



COTTON VALLEY SCHOOL, FORT DAVIS, ALA.

High School; took special study at Harvard College, and later taught at the State College, Savannah, Ga.

The school has \$5,000 worth of property and had an enrollment of 5 teachers and 230 students in 1908. The annual expenses are \$2,500, provided through the A. M. A.

Emerson Normal and Industrial Institute, Mobile, Ala.

Rev. A. T. Burnell, Principal



Rev. A. T. Burnell, Ph.D.

THE American Missionary Association began work in Mobile, Ala., in 1867, by purchasing the "Blue College" property and opening a common school for Negroes.

The school was named in honor of Mr. Ralph Emerson, of Rockford, Ill. The city supported the school in 1870 and 1871, and in 1872 the Institution again came under the care of the American Missionary Association, and was converted into a boarding school of normal and academic character.

Fire destroyed the property in January, 1882, and the school was reopened in the Baptist and Methodist churches. In October, 1882, a \$9,000 brick building was dedicated, and in 1889 the Daniel Hand Fund provided an industrial building to



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